

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094450

NODIS

STADIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 7091 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR. 25.

QUOTE: S E C R E T BONN 07091

NODIS

STADIS

PLEASE NOTIFY EUR/CE UPON RECEIPT

DEPARTMENT PASS USMISSION USBERLIN AND AMEMBASSY BERLIN

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, US, UR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON BERLIN PATROLS

REF: BONN 7090

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1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, BONN GROUP HAS REACHED AD REF
AGREEMENT ON COMMON TEXT OF REPLY TO SOVIET PROTEST.
TEXT OF PROPOSED US REPLY FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS STUDIED THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF 15 APRIL 1977 CONCERNING THE MATTER OF ENTRY INTO THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN BY ALLIED MILITARY VEHICLES.

B. THE SOVIET STATEMENT REFERS TO US MILITARY POLICE VEHICLES PERFORMING POLICY PATROLS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN. WHAT IS IN FACT AT ISSUE IS THAT FREE MOVEMENT OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN THE AREA OF BERLIN AS DEFINED IN THE QUADRIPARTITE WARTIME AND POSTWAR AGREEMENTS WHICH HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE SINCE 1945. (BEGIN BRACKETS) THE SOVIET SIDE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIET VEHICLES CARRY OUT DUTIES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. THESE ACTIVITIES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS CORRESPOND TO THE TOURS BY US FLAG VEHICLES IN THE EASTERN SECTOR AND ARE PART OF THE LONG-STANDING QUADRIPARTITE PRACTICE OF CONDUCTING TOURS IN THE RESPECTIVE SECTORS OF BERLIN. (END BRACKETS)

C. IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1971, THE FOUR POWERS UNDERTOOK MUTUALLY TO RESPECT THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND JOINT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONFIRMED THAT THESE REMAINED UNCHANGED. THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE FOUR POWERS ON OR OFF DUTY THROUGHOUT BERLIN IS IN EXERCISE OF THOSE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND IS AN ELEMENT OF THE EXISTING SITUATION WHICH, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, CANNOT BE UNILATERALLY
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CHANGED.

D. THE QUADRIPARTITE DECLARATION OF 9 NOVEMBER 1972 ALSO EXPLICITLY STATED THAT THE "RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS AND THE CORRESPONDING RELATED QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND PRACTICES" WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE FOUR POWERS THROUGHOUT BERLIN IS ONE OF THOSE PRACTICES.

E. FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES EFFORTS TOWARD SECURING PEACE IN BERLIN AND THROUGHOUT EUROPE WOULD BE DAMAGED IF ANY ONE OF THE FOUR POWERS WERE NOT TO RESPECT FULLY THE UNDERTAKINGS CONFIRMED BY THEM IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE QUADRIPARTITE DECLARATION, WHICH CONSTITUTE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF DETENTE. ANY QUESTIONING OF THE LONG-STANDING QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND PRACTICES IN BERLIN, INCLUDING TOURS BY MILITARY

VEHICLES OF THE THREE POWERS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN, WOULD THEREFORE HAVE DISTURBING EFFECTS ON THE OVERALL SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF NEITHER SIDE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS RISKING THE STABILITY ACHIEVED BY THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS BY RAISING THIS CRITICAL POINT.

F. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES NOTES THE WISH OF THE SOVIET UNION TO CONTINUE CONTACTS ON BERLIN MATTERS ON A BUSINESS-LIKE BASIS, AND TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DEBATES OVER QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS IN BERLIN. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHARES THAT WISH. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE ACCEPTS THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THE
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SOVIET DEMARCHE SHOULD NOT BE MADE A MATTER OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION. BUT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL THE FOUR POWERS IN BERLIN ARE RESPECTED AND THAT OUTSIDE PARTIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THESE IMPORTANT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. IN PARTICULAR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS OF FREE MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT BERLIN AND IS THEREFORE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE CONTENT OF THE SOVIET NOTE OF 15 APRIL.

END TEXT

STOESSEL
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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